

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

April 15, 2015

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Marston D. Lovell
Richard R. Dutremble
Michael J. Cote
Gary Sinden

County Manager Gregory Zinser and H.R. Director, Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

All present were invited to rise and salute the flag of the United States.

Call Meeting to Order

YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

04-15-15 ITEM

1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

Susan Wiswell referenced the recent cyber attack in Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and asked if York County had mechanisms in place to protect us from such attacks. County Manager Greg Zinser explained that our dispatch center is handled through Sanford Communications and that there is a multi-tiered wall. We also have a closed fiber network with Sanford.

2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2015

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3

HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cote informed the Board that he attended the Maine County Commissioners Association meeting last week and added there were a lot of developments that were less than positive. To summarize, Commissioner Cote stated that he told the board members at MCCA given the approach they are taking to attempt to improve the state of the County jails, he could not support it. He reiterated York County's stand to the MCCA board members that full County control of our jail is the goal the York County Commissioners are working towards.

4

HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Zinser told the Board that the bids for lawn maintenance for the Government Building and the Courthouse were opened today and that he would have a bid award recommendation at the next meeting.

1. Continue Budget Review

a. **Emergency Management Agency-** The County Manager introduced Director Art Cleaves to present his budget. Director Cleaves addressed the Board explaining his desire to obtain their approval on a small increase in his budget due to small equity increases for personnel. Commissioner Lovell congratulated Mr. Cleaves on reaching the Federal level for assistance with the snow storm damage. Commissioner Cote asked Director Cleaves if he feels the increase he is requesting puts the two positions more in alignment. EMA Director Cleaves responded that he did.

b. **District Attorney's Office-**The County Manager briefly explained that the part-time position request is made possible due to the savings from the D.A.'s office no longer having to pay for rental space in Springvale. District Attorney Kathy Slattery and Office Manager Jen Kern presented their budget request. D.A. Slattery informed all that the overall increase is in wages due to contractual obligations. She went on to state that beginning July 1st, a modified version of the Unified Court Docketing system will be implemented and change how cases are processed. The four courts will still be used and everyone will have an automatic right to a jury trial. There will also be tighter Discovery requirements causing the need for more administrative help to copy the documents. Ms. Slattery continued that they also need to utilize more interpreters to interview witnesses as they do not have enough staff. The District Attorney told all that York County is even with Cumberland County in the number of filings. She added that the Victims Witness Advocates had contact with over 8,700 victims last year. Commissioner Lovell asked if D.A. Slattery asked if there would be more Assistant District Attorneys. She responded that she believed the State would be hiring four more attorneys for York County. Commissioner Lovell asked if the District Attorney was comfortable with the professional fee line. She replied that she was as she would like to concentrate on hiring more staff to deal with the increased case loads. The County Manager also mentioned that there is no room at the courthouse for additional personnel so that is another challenge. Commissioner Cote asked for confirmation that the overall District Attorney's budget is increasing by \$32,904.00. The County Manager confirmed that yes that is the increase.

Pam Tourangeau presented the York County Juvenile Fire Safety & Intervention budget. She circulated a handout with information regarding the program (attached to the minutes as record.)

c. **Probate request-**Commissioner Lovell disclosed to the other members of the Board that Judge Nadeau had at one time worked at the same law firm as his wife and that they had had dinner with Judge Nadeau and his wife. He clarified that his wife did not now work with Judge Nadeau. None of the other Commissioners had an issue with Commissioner Lovell weighing in on the Judge of Probate's request for a raise. Commissioner Lovell stated that the District Attorney stated that her caseload had increased but that he did not believe that the Commissioners had a clear idea of all matters that had increased. Commissioner Dutremble asked about a potential bill now in the Statehouse that might eliminate some of the cases currently heard by the Probate court. The County Manager responded that he believed there was and there would be a public hearing on the bill soon. He added that if passed, he understands that it could significantly decrease the numbers of cases heard in Probate Court. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he is in favor of increasing one's salary if they are doing more work but not if one's work may decrease. He added that in his opinion there are too many variables right now. Commissioner Cote stated that it is always difficult (referring to budget process) as everyone could use more help. He added that the budget was cut by \$50,000.00 last year and the Commissioners have asked for a level funded budget this year resulting in a minor increase to tax payers which he believes is necessary. Commissioner Cote went on to state that the Commissioners need to be frugal and manage so that the people in York County will get services and the employees are able to keep their jobs. Therefore, he cannot support the Probate Judge's request for a raise at this time.

d. **Other personnel requests-** The Commissioners discussed Sheriff King's request in his proposed budget for a Lieutenant's position. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he does support the position as he believes the Sheriff's Office is understaffed. Commissioner Chair Sallie Chandler responded that she respectfully disagrees. She added that in her opinion if the Sheriff needs more boots on the ground, we need them-not administration. Commissioner Sinden agreed with Commissioner Chair Chandler and added he needs to vote with his district. If towns do not feel they need a contract deputy, he cannot justify further penalizing his district in which towns are paying for full-time policing. Commissioner Sinden added that District 5 pays 35% of the County budget and he cannot support additional expenses in the Sheriff's Office. He repeated that he is a strong advocate of the contract deputy program. Commissioner Lovell commented that the utility of having a police academy graduate to fill in when the Sheriff, Major and Chief Deputy cannot, is valuable. He asked H.R. Director, Linda Corliss, for a job description for the major position so that he can better understand where jobs fit in at the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Lovell continued that the request for a Lieutenant may be premature at this time but that it is important for the Sheriff to accomplish the goals he has set for his department. Commissioner Cote added that the position (lieutenant) might have to happen if the contract deputy program increases. Then, the position should be absorbed by the people using the services, according to Commissioner Cote. He added that it isn't that the Commissioners aren't supportive of the Sheriff's Office. It's about the bottom line. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he believes the contract deputy program to be obsolete. He feels the legislature should develop a bill stating either towns should have a contract

deputy or get their own police departments. Commissioner Cote responded that he totally agrees but the problem is that the legislators represent the small towns as well. Commissioner Dutremble remarked that it's going to take some disaster before people act.

County Manager Zinser sought approval to change the part-time Facilities Director position to a full time position. The County Manager explained that the functions are currently being done by himself, his assistant and the Lt. Col. County Manager Zinser went on to remind the Commissioners that there are many items needing attention and that will soon need attention. The County has three major buildings with complex and varying needs. Also, a capital plan needs to be assembled. This is an item brought up by our auditors each year. Commissioner Sinden commented that he agreed with County Manager Zinser. He used the same analogy of when the County hired an H.R. Director. He said his expectation is that this person will return money to the County by planning maintenance and getting ahead of the ball with preventative maintenance. Commissioner Dutremble concurred and reminded all that York County did have a Facilities Director in 2007 and that he was never replaced when he left. The City of Biddeford hired a facilities director years ago and he has saved the city lots of money, according to Commissioner Dutremble. Commissioner Lovell asked if the recommended salary of \$60,000.00 matched up with other facilities directors in Maine counties? The County Manager replied that Cumberland County's facilities director makes a salary in the low 80's and the other counties are a hodgepodge with salaries ranging from \$35,000 to \$50,000.00. Commissioner Cote clarified that each county has different buildings therefore affecting the salaries of their facilities directors. Commissioner Dutremble clarified that the current, draft budget includes the Facilities Director's salary at full time. The County Manager verified that this was the case.

County Manager Zinser informed all that the budgetary process is concluded.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adopt the FY'16 budget as presented (C.M. recommendations). Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Commissioner Dutremble commented that he will approve the budget (bottom line) but that he still does not agree with the Sheriff's Office budget.
Vote 5-0.

2. Take action to rescind vote of jail captain transfer to deputy position

Commissioner Lovell motioned to rescind the vote taken at the last meeting to transfer a jail captain to a deputy position. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

County Manager introduced H.R. Director, Linda Corliss. Ms. Corliss approached the Board and spoke about the upcoming Wellness Fair. She stated that this would be the third fair put on by York County's Safety/Wellness Committee. Linda informed all that there were many vendors who have agreed to be in attendance including Harvard Pilgrim, Anthem, and Workwell. There will be free chair massages as well as our own EMA with family safety tips. The fair will be held on April 21st from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the York County Government Building.

3. Act on appointment of part-time Facilities Director (exec. session may be necessary)

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. H.R. Director, Linda Corliss was also in attendance during the session. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Lovell motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Cote approved the hiring of Timothy Amoroso as part time Facilities Director for York County. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. County Manager Zinser added that Mr. Amoroso will begin his duties on June 1st.

5 NEW BUSINESS

Chief Deputy Tom Baran announced that the Sheriff's Office will be at Hannaford in Waterboro on Saturday, April 25th for drug take back day from 10:00 to 2:00.

6 OLD BUSINESS

7 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

8 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E).

9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Lovell motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the Motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.